

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

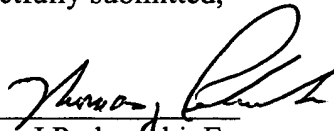
In the Office Action mailed March 12, 2003, the Examiner has objected to claims 3, 4, 8, 61, 72, 74, 84-97, 104, 108, 114, 116, 130-131, 143 and 150 for being dependent upon a rejected claim base, but has indicated these would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the rejected base claim. Also, claims 13-24 were objected to for minor informalities, but it is indicated that they would be allowable if said informalities were corrected.

In response to this Office Action, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 57, 59 and 105 and amend claims 2-5, 8-13, 24, 58, 60-62, 69, 70, 72-75, 82-85, 89, 97-104, 106-109, 113-118, 128-131, 135, 142-150, 152, 153, 155 and 157-160, in order to avoid any basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, and to place the claims objected to by the Examiner in position for allowance. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications based on the canceled claims.

In view, therefore, of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by newly-amended Claims 2-24, 58, 60-104 and 106-160 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



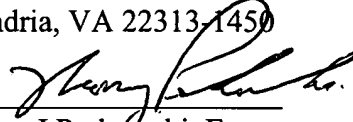
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